

# NATHAN AND OLIVE BOONE HOMESTEAD STATE HISTORIC SITE

## *PREAMBLE AND MISSION STATEMENT*

August 2021

### **HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:**

Nathan Boone (1781-1856) was the tenth child and youngest son of Daniel Boone. He played a key role in the spread of Euro-American settlers out of the Mississippi valley. Nathan followed his father and older brother, Daniel Morgan Boone, into Missouri in 1799. He and his sixteen-year-old wife, Olive, reportedly then possessed only three horses, a rifle, an axe, and blankets. Over the next few years, in the tradition of his father, Nathan made a living by surveying, fur trapping, and trading. Nathan was active in the state militia and with the Indian affairs. During the War of 1812, he served as an officer in the Mounted Rangers trying to maintain calm along the frontier from perceived and actual threats from Native Americans.

After the war, Nathan succeeded financially in civilian life and in 1820 was elected a delegate to the constitutional convention held in St. Louis. The family prospered until the 1830s. Nathan lost his house that he had built in 1810 overlooking the Femme Osage as the result of a defaulted loan for which he was the bondsman. At the age of 51, Nathan rejoined the Missouri Rangers to fight in the Black Hawk War. He became captain of the newly formed First Regiment of Dragoons in 1833. He retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1853 at the age of 72.

His sons, James, John, and Benjamin Howard had moved the family to Greene County in 1837. The extended Boone family most certainly found a landscape inclusive of a prairie and timber environment with “rolling good soil for cultivation” according to original land surveys conducted by Elias Bar in 1835. By late 1837 Olive Boone would begin her role managing the homestead, Nathan would only be in residence occasionally for the next 15 years. Olive would see the homestead grown to encompass nearly 1,200 acres by 1856. She would go on to raise 3 of her grandchildren on the homestead and care for her mother who would live to see her 104th birthday. Nathan would spend his last days on the homestead and was buried in the family plot north of the Boone Home. His wife Olive was buried beside him two years later.

The Boone’s owed much of their success on the homestead in part to the labor of enslaved people. Little is known about exact day-to-day life, but at the height of homestead operations in 1850, the Boone’s enslaved 15 people. The African American cemetery located north of the Boone cemetery contains at least 11 graves. The cemetery was started by the enslaved people of the Boone homestead, but saw use by the Ash Grove community for segregated burials until the late 1880’s.

The house, built in 1837, is a dogtrot log cabin modified in the 1840s by weatherboarding and enclosure of the breezeway between the two sections to the cabin. Since then, very little modification of the original fabric of the building has occurred. Archeological excavations have revealed, to date, the location of the original smokehouse, summer kitchen, and root cellar. Many additional outbuildings are suspected, including the slave quarters, and it is hoped that both

traditional archeology and remote sensing will provide additional data on the types and locations of these outbuildings.

The homestead is situated within the fabric of a landscape that has both historic and biological significance. A small population of the federally threatened Missouri bladder pod is associated with a limestone glade found within the Ash Grove cluster of bladder pod populations. The Division's responsibility in interpreting the site is to provide the visitor with an image of the total environment at the time of settlement.

Nathan Boone has ties to many other facilities in the system. With his brother, Daniel Morgan, salt production was begun at Boone's Lick State Historic Site in 1805. These two brothers obtained several land grants encompassing salt licks; one of which was later purchased by Dr. Robert Graham and later became Graham Cave State Park.


#### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The primary mission of the Nathan and Olive Boone Homestead State Historic Site is the preservation and interpretation of the house and historic landscape as well as the interpretation of the personages of Nathan and Olive Boone and the Boone family in Missouri.

**APPROVED BY:**

  
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**Mike Sutherland**  
Division Director, Missouri State Parks

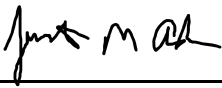
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**Terry Bruns**  
Program Director, Planning and Development


08/27/2021  
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**Laura Hendrickson**  
Director, Ozark Region

August 27, 2021  
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**Justin Adams**  
Deputy Regional Director, Ozark Region

08/09/2021  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mike Busekrus**  
Superintendent

08/11/2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# **NATHAN AND OLIVE BOONE HOMESTEAD STATE HISTORIC SITE**

## ***CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN***

**August 2021**

**Location:** Green County  
**Established:** 1991  
**Size:** 400.20 Acres

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The primary mission of the Nathan and Olive Boone Homestead State Historic Site is the preservation and interpretation of the house and historic landscape as well as the interpretation of the personages of Nathan and Olive Boone and the Boone family in Missouri.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Located in western Green County, north of Ash Grove, Missouri, Nathan and Olive Boone Homestead State Historic Site is situated within the fabric of a landscape that has both biological and historic significance. The historic site encompasses prairie grasslands with large areas of open limestone glades, supporting a small population of federally threatened Missouri bladder pod. Wooded areas scattered across the landscape consist of groves of ash, walnut, and oak trees broken by glades of limestone outcroppings. Notable historic features include the Boone Home, outbuilding remnants, Boone family and African American cemeteries, and 370 acres of the original homestead.

The State of Missouri purchased Nathan and Olive Boone Homestead in 1991. Previously known as Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site, it wasn't until 2020 that Olive's name was added to the facility, recognizing her vital role as the resourceful caretaker of the homestead.

### **SITE GOALS**

- Preserve the natural and cultural resources located within the site's boundaries;
- Provide recreational opportunities and public use facilities compatible with the site's mission, resources, and public needs;
- Provide adequate orientation and interpretive facilities to enhance visitor experience;
- Provide administrative support facilities to ensure successful operation and maintenance of the historic site.

### **INTERPRETIVE THEMES**

- The life of Nathan & Olive Boone, and the Boone family members who lived on the Homestead,
- The lives of the enslaved people who lived on the Homestead,
- Pre-settlement landscape and wildlife of the Greene County, and



- The diverse history of early Greene County and Ash Grove.

## **SITE STRUCTURES**

Nathan and Olive Boone Homestead State Historic Site encompasses one historic and six support structures. The historic Boone Home consists of a dogtrot log cabin modified in the 1840s by weatherboarding and enclosure of the breezeway between the two sections to the cabin; circa 1837 and original to the property. Support structures include:

- Restroom (1999)
- Shelter (2015)
- Well house (1993)
- Shop (1949)
- Barn (1959)
- Pole barn (unknown)

## **DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES**

To ensure the view from the Boone Home is preserved, along with primary points of historic interpretation, every effort will be made to prevent modern intrusions from disturbing/disrupting the viewshed. New development will also avoid areas of ecological importance.

### **Access**

Road access is to be constructed to the new visitor center area and maintenance area. Additionally, a new path will be constructed leading to the Boone Home from the new visitor center area, roughly following the historic “Road to Springfield”; enabling the interpretation of the historic site in chronological order.

### **New Visitor Center Area**

A new visitor center area is to be designated in a patch of wood southeast of the Boone Home. This area will include construction of a new site office and parking. Amenities located within the area may include but are not limited to picnic tables, information kiosk, and signage. The existing site office is to be removed.

### **New Maintenance Area**

Due to operational difficulties and safety concerns, the current maintenance area is to be eliminated along with the demolition of area structures. A new maintenance area is to be designated adjacent to the new visitor center area. This area will include construction of a new maintenance facility.

## **Cyclist Primitive Camping Area**

A temporary cyclist primitive camping area for touring/cross-country cyclists will be located at the northern edge of the current day use area where two existing picnic pads reside. Once construction of the new visitor center area is complete and foot traffic/interpretive tours shift, the cyclist primitive camping area will move to its final destination, east of the shelter where double and single picnic pads exist.

## **Multi-Use Trail**

Located towards the eastern portion of the site, a multi-use, single track trail (hiking and biking) will be established as an extension of the Prairie View Trail. Trail development will be placed out of the viewshed of the Boone Home.

## **Multi-Use Trailhead**

A multi-use trailhead will be developed in the new visitor center area, southeast of the Boone Home. A hybrid approach for trailhead parking will be available near the entrance gate, enabling trail access to the public when the gate is closed.

## **Special Considerations**

Cultural Resource Survey: A cultural resource survey did not produce cultural concerns within the new visitor center area and maintenance area.

Utility Services: Development southeast of the Boone Home will require extensive utility service construction and/or connection. Connection to the City of Ash Grove water and wastewater, approximately 1 mile away, necessitates investigation.

## **PROJECT PHASING**

1. Temporary cyclist primitive camping area
2. Multi-use trail and trailhead
3. New visitor center area and maintenance area
4. Cyclist primitive camping area (final location)

Cultural and natural resource clearances will be required before on-site modifications and development occur.

## **PLANNING AND RESEARCH GOALS**

- Update and/or complete the historic sites General Management Plan
- Documentary and archeological research of the historic site will continue, including:
  - African American slave cemetery
  - Slave quarters
  - Sink hole on top of hill

## **ACQUISITION UNITS**

If offered, acquisition of adjacent property may be pursued only through willing sellers or donors. To be considered, units should enhance the mission of Missouri State Parks through one of the following categories:

- Resource preservation and protection
- Recreational access and opportunity
- Management facilitation

## **CONTEXTUAL PLANNING INFORMATION**

### **Public Input**

Public input is an integral part of the CDP process. The following includes input opportunities throughout the planning process.

1. August 15, 2020: CDP Public Meeting #1 held in conjunction with ribbon cutting event.
  - a. August 17, 2020 to September 15, 2020: Public input opportunity #1
2. January 28, 2021: CDP Public Meeting #2 (virtual)
  - a. January 29, 2021 to March 1, 2021: Public input opportunity #2

### **CDP Team Members**

Laura Hendrickson – Ozark Regional Director  
Justin Adams – Ozark Region Deputy Regional Director  
Mike Busekrus – Superintendent  
Chris Crabtree – Natural Resource Steward  
Michael Ohnorsorgen – Cultural Resource Program Director  
Rachel Campbell – Archaeologist  
Amanda van Woert – Registrar  
Terry Bruns – Planning and Development Program Director  
Don Stier – Design Section Chief  
Ryan Dunwoody – Planning Section Chief  
Rebecca Young – Outdoor Rec. Section Chief  
Ben Nagy – Trail Coordinator  
David Kelly – Deputy Division Director  
Brian Stith – Deputy Division Director  
Mike Sutherland – Division Director

## **APPENDIX**

CDP Map  
Public Meeting #1 Survey Results  
Public Meeting #2 Survey Results

**NATHAN AND OLIVE BOONE HOMESTEAD  
STATE HISTORIC SITE**

***CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN***

**August 2021**

**Approved by:**



**Mike Sutherland**  
Director, Missouri State Parks

8/27/21  
Date



**Terry Bruns**  
Program Director, Planning and Development

08/27/2021  
Date



**Laura Hendrickson**  
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Deputy Regional Director, Ozark Region

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**Mike Busekrus**  
Superintendent

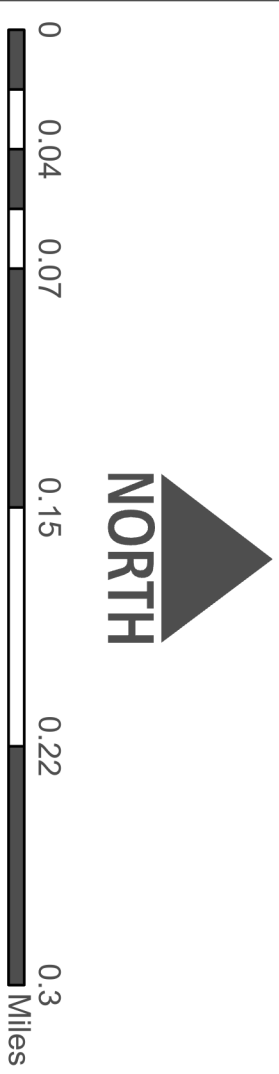
08/11/2021  
Date



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CDP: August 2021

Projected Coordinate System:  
NAD 1983, UTM Zone 15N  
Contour Interval: 20 Feet  
Absolute Scale: 1:3,822



- Use Area**

  - Day Use Area
  - Cyclist Primitive Camping Area
  - Maintenance Area
  - Visitor Center Area
- Trails**

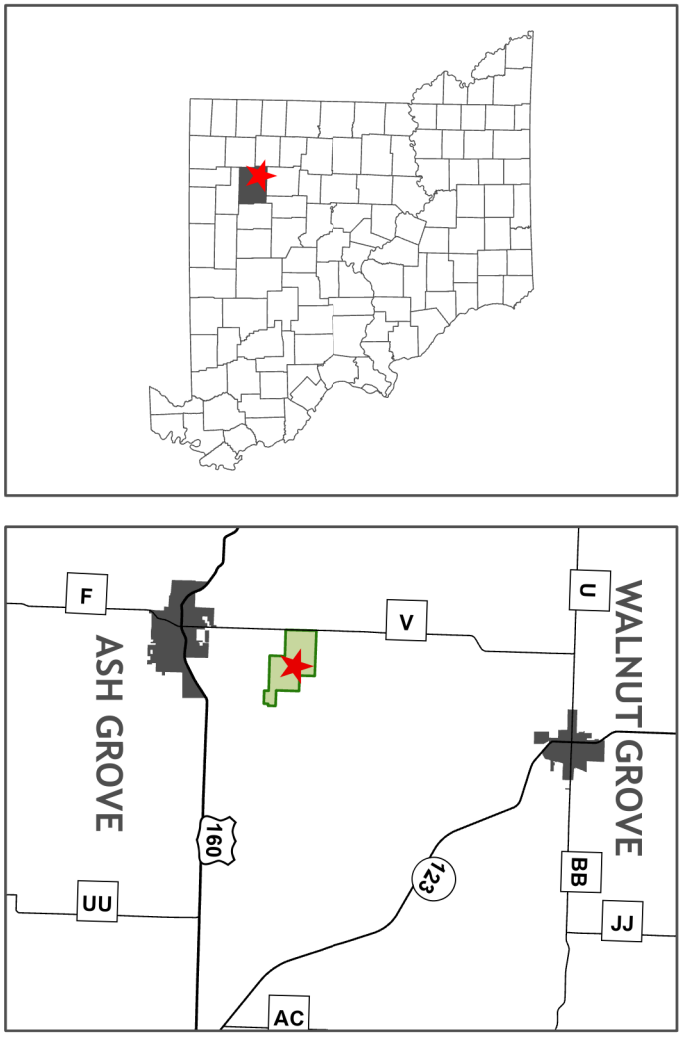
  - Homestead Interpretive Trail
  - Prairie View Trail
  - Spring Box Trail
  - White Connector
- Development**

  - New Road Access
  - New Path
- Landscape & Features**

  - Trees/Wooded
  - Waterbody
  - Stream
  - Structure
  - Road
  - Contour
  - Parcel
  - Feature
- Development**

  - New Road Access
  - New Path
- Landscape & Features**

  - Nathan Boone
  - Homestead SHS



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